



# CULTURAL SERVICES

## 2022 Annual Report



# Cultural Services Division

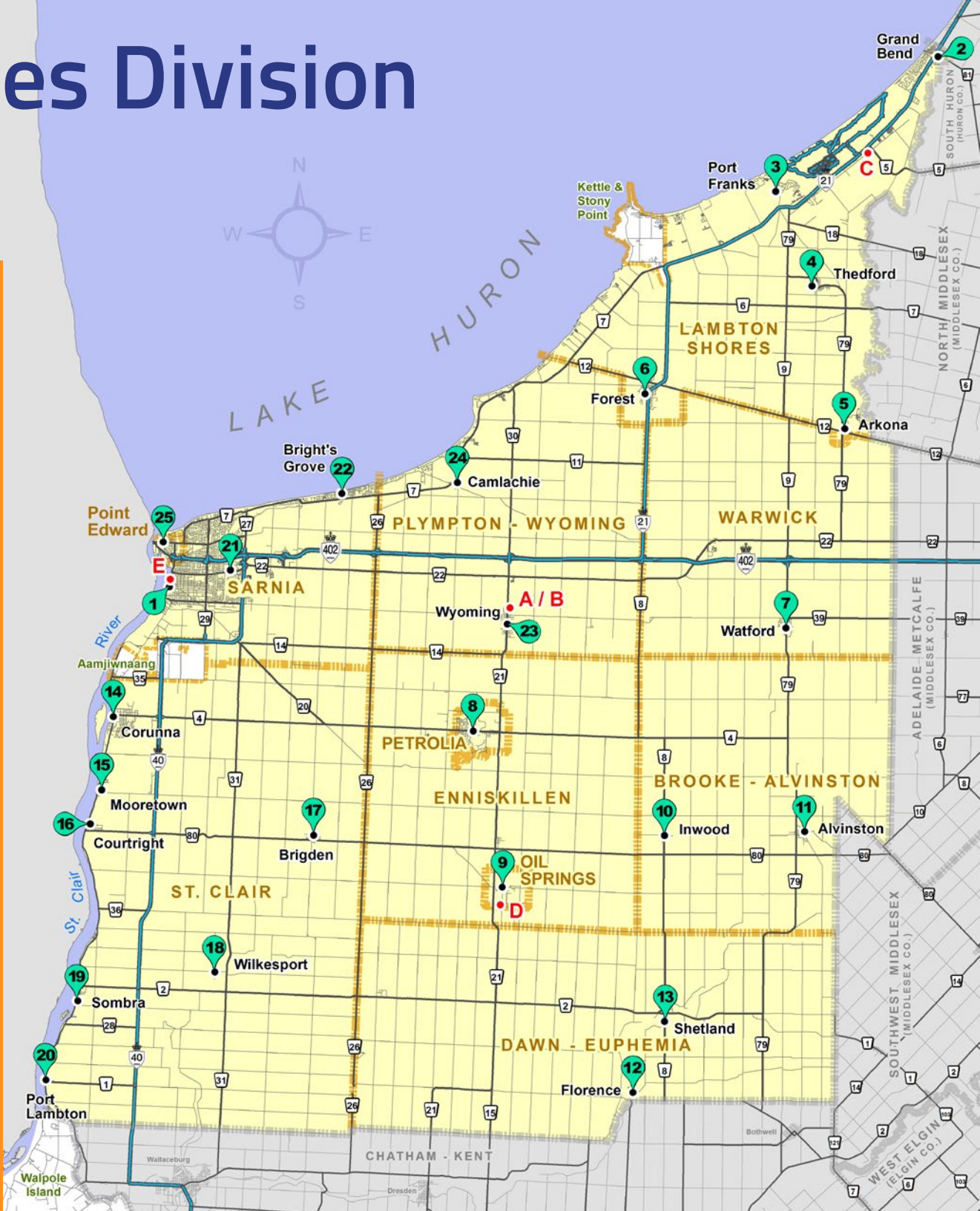
## OVERVIEW MAP



Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site, 2423 Kelly Road, Oil Springs.

ID	LOCATION	WEBSITE	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS
A	Library Headquarters	<a href="http://www.lclibrary.ca">www.lclibrary.ca</a>	519-845-3324	787 Broadway Street
B	Lambton County Archives	<a href="http://www.lambtonarchives.ca">www.lambtonarchives.ca</a>	519-845-5426	787 Broadway Street
C	Lambton Heritage Museum	<a href="http://www.heritagemuseum.ca">www.heritagemuseum.ca</a>	519-243-2600	10035 Museum Road
D	Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site	<a href="http://www.oilmuseum.ca">www.oilmuseum.ca</a>	519-834-2840	2423 Kelly Road
E	Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery	<a href="http://www.jnaag.ca">www.jnaag.ca</a>	519-336-8127	147 Lochiel Street

REGION	ID	LIBRARY LOCATION	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Region 1	1	Sarnia Library	519-337-3291	124 Christina Street S.	Sarnia
Region 2	2	Grand Bend Library	519-238-2067	15 Gill Road	Lambton Shores
	3	Port Franks Library	519-243-2820	9997 Port Franks Rd.	Lambton Shores
	4	Thedford Library	519-296-4459	16 Allen Street	Lambton Shores
	5	Arkona Library	519-828-3406	16 Smith Street	Lambton Shores
	6	Forest Library	519-786-5152	61 King Street West	Lambton Shores
	7	Watford Library	519-876-2204	5317 Nauvoo Road	Warwick
	Region 3	8	Petrolia Library	519-882-0771	4200 Petrolia Line
9		Oil Springs Library	519-834-2670	4596 Oil Springs Line	Oil Springs
10		Inwood Library	519-844-2491	6504 James Street	Brooke-Alvinston
11		Alvinston Library	519-898-2921	3251 River Street	Brooke-Alvinston
12		Florence Library	519-692-3213	6213 Mill Street	Dawn-Euphemia
13		Shetland Library	519-695-3330	1279 Shetland Road	Dawn-Euphemia
Region 4	14	Corunna Library	519-862-1132	417 Lyndoch Street	St. Clair
	15	Mooretown Library	519-867-2823	1166 Emily Street	St. Clair
	16	Courtright Library	519-867-2712	1533 Fourth Street	St. Clair
	17	Brigden Library	519-864-1142	1540 Duncan Street	St. Clair
	18	Wilkesport Library	519-864-4000	1349 Wilkesport Line	St. Clair
	19	Sombra Library	519-892-3711	3536 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair
	20	Port Lambton Library	519-677-5217	507 Stoddard Street	St. Clair
Region 5	21	Mallroad Library	519-542-2580	1362 Lambton Mall Rd.	Sarnia
	22	Bright's Grove Library	519-869-2351	2618 Hamilton Road	Sarnia
	23	Wyoming Library	519-845-0181	536 Niagara Street	Plympton-Wyoming
	24	Camlachie Library	519-899-2202	6745 Camlachie Road	Plympton-Wyoming
	25	Point Edward Library	519-336-3291	220 Michigan Avenue	Point Edward



# Contents



Visitors to Lambton Heritage Museum stop for a selfie outside of the historic Tudhop home, originally built near Thedford in 1857 and relocated to the museum grounds in 1978.



Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers prepares one of her site-specific art installations at the JNAAG as part of the #hopeandhealingcanada project.



Patrons experience the StoryWalk offered by Lambton County Library in Canatara Park, a unique way to merge physical activity with literacy for both adults and children.

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# Cultural Services Division Profile



In August of 2022, Oil Museum of Canada welcomed the Southern Ontario Thunderbird Club for a group tour of the museum site.



Elder Mike Plain of Aamjiwnaang First Nation leads a dedication ceremony for a new crosswalk commemorating residential school victims, supported through the Creative County Grant Program.



Members of the One Book Lambton steering committee with author Perdita Felicien (centre), whose book *My Mother's Daughter* was the title selected in 2022 to unite people around Lambton County in reading the same book.

The County of Lambton Cultural Services Division's mandate is to provide leadership and support to advance cultural development for economic, social and broader community benefit in Lambton County. In support of this mandate, the Division assumes responsibilities in the areas of cultural planning and policy development, capacity building, program delivery, strategic investment and resource development.

## Lambton County Library

Lambton County Library manages a network of 25 libraries, provides courier service to all County Divisions and partner agencies Tourism Sarnia-Lambton and Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, and operates a mobile library outreach service. Services offered to its over 20,760 active cardholders include the ability to borrow books, audio books, magazines, audio-visual materials and more. Patrons can participate in story hours, hear from guest speakers, and access reference services and the Internet through public computer workstations. Library cardholders also have access to a range of convenient eLibrary services available on any device connected to the Internet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These services include electronic books, magazines, newspapers, digital media (such as music and movies) and educational courses.

## Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

The Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery (JNAAG) is a free public art gallery located in downtown Sarnia. With the support of a dedicated staff and volunteer team, the JNAAG engages the community through a wide-range of exhibitions, tours, lectures and programs for all ages. The gallery's collection is comprised of 1,200 primarily Canadian historical and contemporary works of both local and national significance. The JNAAG is a regional gallery with a national mandate, and holds the distinction of Category 'A' designation received from the Department of Canadian Heritage. As such, the gallery meets and maintains a range of strict building, operational and professional standards.



Archivist Assistant Lauren Ihrig undertakes research at the Lambton County Archives, Wyoming.



Warden Kevin Marriott and Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Dave Ferguson take in the annual Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale at LHM.



Students participate in a tour of the photography exhibition *One Wave* by artist Ned Pratt, featured at the JNAAG.

## Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site

The Oil Museum of Canada (OMC) is a designated National Historic Site, situated on the world's first commercial oil field. The ten-acre site features four historic buildings with reconstructed spring-pole and three-pole derricks dominating the property. A series of jerker lines, pumping stations, storage tanks and oil wagons combine with the material in the museum collection to bring the fascinating story of the oil industry to life. The main exhibition centre, constructed in 1960, houses over 9,000 artifacts that interpret the international influence of Lambton's proud oil heritage.

## Lambton County Archives

The Lambton County Archives (LCA) serves as an active genealogical and local history resource centre. The Archives preserves

significant local material including census records, birth, marriage and death records, local newspapers, corporate records, Land Registry records and a vast historical photograph collection. The Archives offers seminars and information sessions to help individuals develop their historical and genealogical research skills, as well as educate Lambton's residents about their past.

## Lambton Heritage Museum

Lambton Heritage Museum (LHM) is entrusted with the care of over 25,000 historic artifacts which preserve the history of Lambton County. Situated on 30 acres, the museum maintains six historic buildings, two display buildings and one main exhibition centre. The museum is open year round, and provides picnic grounds and the 1km Woodland Heritage Trail. LHM has evolved from a passive museum site to an active experiential tourism destination.

## Sarnia Library Theatre

Sarnia Library is home to the Sarnia Library Theatre, which features special Cultural Services Division programming and also plays host to many events by community organizations and cultural groups. With a capacity of over 300 and projection, sound and lighting equipment, the theatre space is available for rent to accommodate concerts, lectures, celebrations, film screenings and more.

## Creative County Grant Program

The Creative County Grant Program invests matching funds (up to 50% of the total cost) in new and innovative projects that build cultural capacity, strengthen the creative community, define Lambton's unique identity and enrich the quality of life of all residents. The program also encourages projects led by or in partnership with Indigenous communities.

*Below:* Lambton Concert Band performs at Sarnia Library Theatre as part of the nine-week *Rhythms of Lambton* free concert series.



# Enhancing Access, Inclusion & Community Engagement



On March 1, 2022, Lambton County Library adopted a fine free policy, eliminating overdue fines to create a more accessible service.



In August, OMC hosted a Book Launch Event celebrating the release of the book *Crude Genius* by author Gary May. *Crude Genius* explores the making of international oil baron, William H. McGarvey.



The 2022 Summer Reading Program theme was *A Universe of Stories*. Participants of all ages were invited to explore stories from across the universe, and engage in space-related STEAM activities like this star gazing program at Mooretown Library that demonstrated how sailors navigated the seas with sextants and other devices from the Moore Museum collection.

The Cultural Services Division strives to promote and enhance awareness of cultural opportunities across Lambton County, and provide access to relevant and engaging exhibitions, programming and services for residents at all phases of life.

The 2022 year started with the Province of Ontario returning to a modified Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen, closing Lambton County's museums, gallery, and archives to the public, while all 25 library locations continued to offer curbside pickup service, in-person browsing, Wi-Fi use and academic research as capacity limits allowed, as well as public computer use by scheduled appointment. In February, the museums, gallery and archives re-opened to the public, and all cultural services facilities resumed operations with gradual lifting of restrictions. In an effort to welcome residents back, a concerted effort was made to promote cultural services through new investments in community engagement.

## Lambton County Library Goes Fine Free

Lambton County Library joined major libraries across the country in adopting a fine-free policy. The change took effect on March 1 when Lambton County Library removed fines from

thousands of card holder accounts. The elimination of overdue fines is an important step to help remove financial barriers that disproportionately affect those residents with limited income or who face socio-economic challenges, as well as those confronted with language barriers who speak English as a second language. The new fine-free policy is intended to encourage previous patrons to return, entice new patrons to use the wide range of free resources offered within libraries, encourage cardholders to borrow more items and create a more accessible service for residents.

## One Book Lambton with Perdita Felicien

Author and Olympian, Perdita Felicien, visited the Sarnia Library Theatre in April to discuss her national best-selling book "My Mother's Daughter" as part of the 2022 One Book Lambton initiative. "My Mother's Daughter" tells the story of Perdita's mother, Catherine, and the struggles she experienced as an immigrant and single mother raising a daughter in a foreign country. Together, Catherine and Perdita experienced racism, domestic abuse and homelessness, and these experiences helped shape Perdita who went on to become a successful athlete and broadcaster. One Book Lambton celebrates Canadian authors and creates opportunities to encourage literacy for adults in Lambton County through a variety of programs united under one book.



In 2022, **497,256**

physical library items were

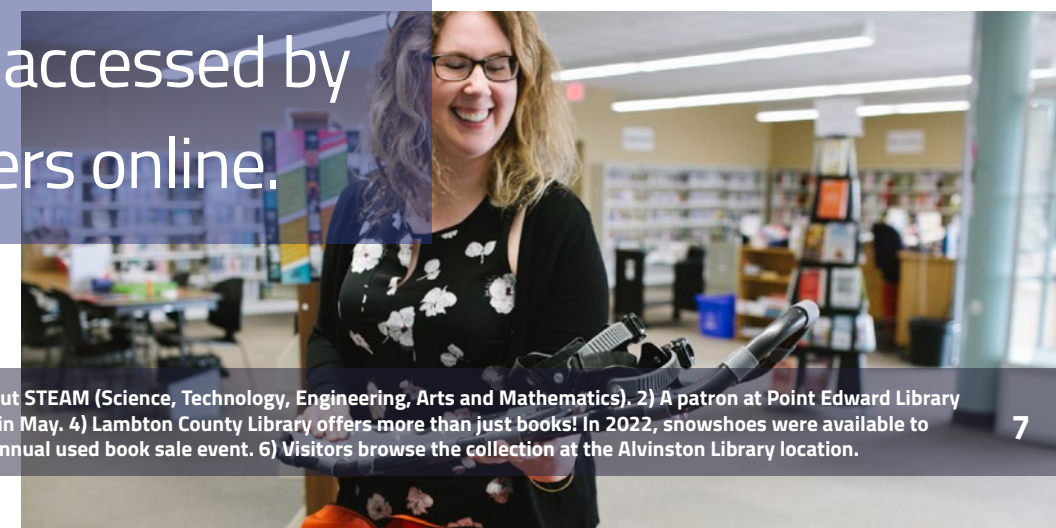
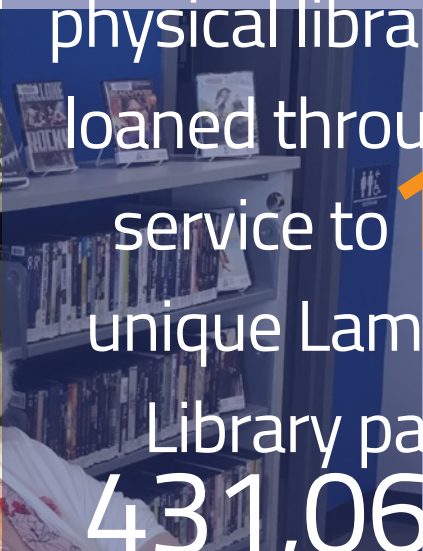
loaned through in-person service to **12,360**

unique Lambton County

Library patrons, and

**431,067** e-service

items were accessed by cardholders online.



Clockwise from top left: 1) Girl Guides from 1st Courtright Guides visited Mooretown Library to learn about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). 2) A patron at Point Edward Library checks out a stack of *Bad Guys* books. 3) Lambton County Library launches a newly designed library card in May. 4) Lambton County Library offers more than just books! In 2022, snowshoes were available to patrons to explore the outdoors. 5) Technical Services staff member Paolo Viola prepares books for the annual used book sale event. 6) Visitors browse the collection at the Alvinston Library location.



With the lifting of pandemic restrictions in early 2022,



Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery, Lambton Heritage Museum, Oil Museum of Canada, and Lambton County Archives reopened and welcomed **22,795**

**visitors** back!



Clockwise from top left: 1) Students tour the JNAAG exhibit *From Skyworld to Cyberspace* by Indigenous artist Skawennati. 2) Students leave OMC after a day of fun touring the site. 3) Young artists experience the *Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale* at LHM. 4) The Lambton Federation of Agriculture held a reception to acknowledge the 2022 Lambton Agricultural Hall of Fame inductees at LHM in June with 82 people in attendance. 5) Kids create 'Fiber Selfies' with art program instructor Patti Cook at the JNAAG. 6) Visitors to OMC's Black Gold Fest in July enjoyed free face painting and a day filled with family-friendly activities for all ages.





Library patrons were invited to create Valentine's Day cards to be delivered to residents at participating Long-Term Care homes.



Visitors experience the #hopeandhealingcanada project, an installation at the JNAAG by Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers.



Forest Fair Ambassador Hailey Marsh and runner up Jordyn Macko visit the Lambton County Library booth to update their library cards.

## JNAAG Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

JNAAG staff curated a number of new exhibits in 2022 to draw residents and visitors back to the gallery following the pandemic.

For its spring/summer exhibit cycle, the JNAAG featured the paintings of regional artist Jean Hay in *Facing North* through a collaboration with the Thames Art Gallery, Chatham. In March, the JNAAG opened *One Wave*, an exhibit of the photography of artist Ned Pratt organized by The Rooms, St. John's, Newfoundland. In August, the JNAAG opened *Feels Like Home* Larry Towell & Inspired Youth, and the #hopeandhealingcanada project, created by Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers.

The fall/winter cycle featured the work of two Indigenous artists at the gallery, *Skawennati: From Skyworld to Cyberspace* by artist Skawennati, and *Beneath the Mask: Symbols as a Healing Phenomenon* by Lambton County based artist Darla Fisher-Odjig.

2022 also marked 10 years since Gallery Lambton closed its doors at the former Bayside Centre and moved down the street to re-open in the historic Thom Building as the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery. To honour its first decade in this purpose-built facility, the Gallery is installing a series of exhibitions

over the course of 2023 titled *Re View*. The exhibitions place the Gallery's permanent collection in the spotlight and celebrate the power of art.

Combined, these exhibitions helped draw 2,681 visitors to the exhibits featured at the gallery in 2022.

## Nature-Themed PA Day Events

The museums worked closely with partners to advance themes of environmental stewardship and nature conservancy in 2022, hosting PA Day events in collaboration with organizations like Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Wild Ontario and Heaven's Wildlife Rescue.

In June, OMC invited local students, families, and members of the public to the program *Meet Our Wild Neighbours*, featuring a presentation by Heaven's Wildlife Rescue. The program provided opportunities to meet critters from the volunteer-based organization in person. Visitors learned about wildlife in Lambton County and the benefit of wildlife rehabilitation and protection to the local environment.

In October, LHM partnered with Wild Ontario to host the *Animal Encounters* PA Day program. Visitors were able to experience nature up-

close with live birds and informational displays. Wild Ontario provided opportunities to meet and greet the raptors and their handlers and learn about the birds of prey that call Ontario home.

## Art Activities for All Ages & Abilities

2022 saw a number of adult, youth and family art activities, as well as lectures and special education opportunities at the JNAAG.

Adult programming included photography and printmaking workshops, as well as the continuation of the *Inspirational Moments* program, which engaged 59 participants from the Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton. Youth art classes included the Random Acts of Art Workshop (RAAW) and Try New Things (TNT) classes for teens, as well as Art Pod - a program specifically designed for youth with special needs and an interest in fine arts, providing them with opportunities to explore art through self-expression.

Family activities drew over 200 participants in 2022 through the Second Saturdays programs, Victoria Day Art Party and Cozy Candle Making sessions. The popular Art & Ideas Lecture Series continued at JNAAG with both virtual and in-person sessions drawing 84 attendees.

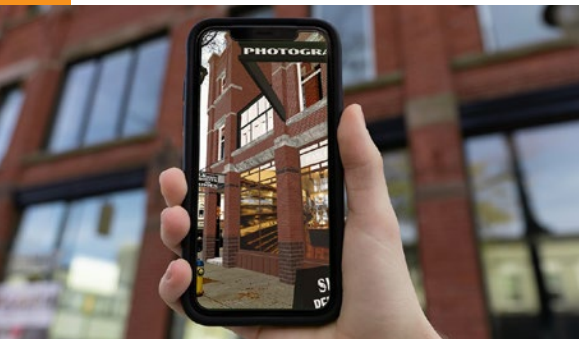
# Creating & Delivering Great Experiences



In the summer of 2022, OMC had over 3,450 visitors from 21 different countries, including this group tour from Aecon Utilities.



In 2022, a new program was launched allowing Lambton County Library cardholders to borrow a Culture Pass for FREE up to seven days. The pass gives an individual or family free admission to a variety of cultural institutions across Lambton County.



As part of its *Re View* exhibit series marking the 10th anniversary of the JNAAG at the Lochiel Street location, the gallery created an augmented reality experience where visitors could scan a QR code with a mobile device to experience what the original Thom Building would have looked like.

The Cultural Services Division aims to provide unique experiences that engage and inspire visitors. This is achieved through the presentation of exhibitions and interpretive displays, programs and activities, tours and events, and the appropriate use of emergent technologies to enhance the visitor experience.

With the lifting of public health measures in early 2022, Division staff focused on welcoming the community back to in-person library, museum, archives and gallery programming.

## Engaging Library Programs

In 2022, libraries delivered a total of 5,377 programs at Lambton County Library's 25 locations, drawing a total attendance of 29,916 participants. This includes programs offered to long-term care homes and retirement residences as part of the Mobile Library Service, which saw 68 programs offered reaching 734 residents. Additionally, a new partnership with the County of Lambton Social Services Division saw outreach programming delivered by library staff at EarlyON Child and Family Centres starting in late 2022, with 77 programs delivered to 1,231 children and parents/guardians.

## Encouraging Literacy

The library's Winter Reading Program ran from January 10 to February 20, 2022 and participants were encouraged to set reading goals for themselves and report how many books they read weekly for a chance to win prizes for themselves, their classrooms, or their schools. This year, 11 schools participated, 44 classrooms were registered along with two homeschool groups and 22 individuals. Schools reported students reading 20,636 books, and individuals reported reading 4,986 books.

In the spring, Art & Book Club was launched as a collaboration between Lambton County Library and JNAAG. Books are selected to complement themes which appear in current exhibitions at the JNAAG. Participants of the book club are supplied with a copy of the book and invited to a group discussion which is followed by a private tour at the gallery. 87 Art & Book Club participants participated in tours of the JNAAG in 2022.

In July, Lambton County Library launched its annual Summer Reading Program with the theme *A Universe of Stories*. Participants of all ages were encouraged to explore stories from across the universe and engage in space-related STEAM activities. The program saw increased participation in 2022, with a total of 2,021 youth reading 13,686 books over July and August.



Take Your Shot: Teen Photo Contest winners are honoured at the opening of *Feels Like Home: Larry Towell & Inspired Youth* at the JNAAG.



Residents were invited to re-discover Lambton County museums by completing the Heritage Sarnia-Lambton Passport Challenge.



Girl Guides from 1st Courtright Guides visited Mooretown Library to learn about circuits as part of the library's STEAM programming.

## Take Your Shot: Teen Photo Contest

The 2022 *Take Your Shot: Teen Photo Contest* organized by Lambton County Library and the JNAAG was inspired by the theme “Feels Like Home”. The partners asked teens from across Lambton County to submit photos that encapsulated the feeling of home through things, places, people or pets that remind them of home or their hometowns.

Between May 1 and July 10, teens were also encouraged to attend a spring session at Sarnia Library hosted by national award-winning photographer, Larry Towell, and a three day summer course at the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery led by local award winning photographer, Sierra Rei Hart. The contest brought in 58 photo submissions.

A jury made up of industry professionals narrowed the submissions down to 26 photographs that were displayed alongside a portion of Larry Towell's work in the exhibition *Feels Like Home: Larry Towell & Inspired Youth* at JNAAG.

## Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival

LHM hosted the annual Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival, October 15 to 16, 2022. The two-day event featured 74 vendors and drew

3,431 visitors to the museum grounds, raising \$20,413 in fundraising support for the museum.

## Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale

The 26th annual Paint Ontario Art Exhibition & Sale opened at LHM on September 2 and ran until September 25. The event drew 2,121 visitors and included fascinating artist demonstrations and outdoor events taking place throughout the run of the show. Highlights included *May We Come Together*, a showcase for local area not-for-profit organizations made possible through the County of Lambton's Creative County Grant Program, and *Perch'n'Paint*, a plein air (painting outdoors) competition.

Organized by the Grand Bend Art Centre (GBAC), a registered not-for-profit community group, Paint Ontario provides a unique opportunity for emerging artists to showcase their work and expose it to buyers. GBAC invests monies raised in sales commissions back into cultural development programs within the community.

## Culture Pass Introduced

In 2022, a new program was launched allowing Lambton County Library cardholders to borrow a Culture Pass for FREE for up to seven days.

The Culture Pass gives an individual or family free admission to a variety of cultural institutions across Lambton County, including Sombra Museum, Forest Museum, Gallery in the Grove, Moore Museum, Petrolia Discovery, Plympton-Wyoming Historical Society, OMC, LHM, LCA and JNAAG. There were 126 loans of the Culture Pass after launching the program in July 2022.

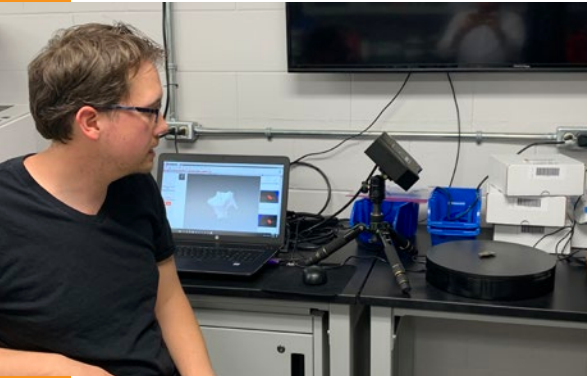
## Heritage Passport Challenge

In the summer of 2022, Heritage Sarnia-Lambton challenged visitors to re-discover Lambton County museums by completing the Heritage Sarnia-Lambton Passport Challenge.

Throughout July and August, guests were invited to visit each participating Heritage Sarnia-Lambton Museum, correctly answer a trivia question, and collect a stamp at each site to complete their passport. Once completed, a ballot was submitted for a chance to win a \$100 Tourism Sarnia-Lambton gift card and museum prize pack.

Participating Heritage Sarnia-Lambton museums included Arkona Lion's Museum, Forest Museum, Lambton County Archives, Lambton Heritage Museum, Moore Museum, Oil Museum of Canada, and Sombra Museum.

# Developing Partnerships That Increase Participation in Culture



A projectile point from the LHM collection is scanned by the Lambton Manufacturing Innovation Centre.



Elder David Plain (left) of Aamjiwnaang First Nation is joined by Ryan Lindsay and Joseph Gorzeman of The Online & Digital Education Academy (ODEA) and Curator Dana Thorne to review indigenous archaeological material from the LHM collection for digitization as part of the culture capture project.

As a guiding principle of the County of Lambton Cultural Plan, the Cultural Services Division seeks to build partnerships and work collaboratively with the private, public and volunteer sectors to identify and seize shared challenges and opportunities.

## Digitization of Archaeological Material

In 2022, the Division partnered with the Online & Digital Education Academy (ODEA) of Sarnia to support their work in developing an educational video game with the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Heritage & Culture Club on the history of the Indigenous community. As part of game development, LHM loaned a number of stone tools and projectile points to be 3D scanned by the Lambton Manufacturing Innovation Centre. These archaeological materials were reviewed by project consultant and Indigenous historian David Plain. It is anticipated that the game development project will be completed in 2024, and made available to students through the school board.

The collaboration of the various partners has resulted in new opportunities to make the significant collection of archaeological material accessible to the public, and has initiated

conversations with First Nations Communities about repatriating these items. Once completed, the virtual environment created for the video game will be featured in the new Lambton Gallery exhibit space as a virtual reality experience.

## Museums, Gallery & Archives Programs

The 2022 year saw the return of in-person school field trips, with OMC offering school programs to 27 school groups and 566 participants. LHM attracted 1,121 students to its popular Holidays@Heritage Program in November and December, inviting children in Kindergarten to Grade 4 to explore festive traditions brought to Canada from around the world. Virtual education programs continued as well, with OMC providing 106 virtual live sessions to schools, and LHM connecting with students through 178 sessions.

JNAAG hosted 13 school and group tours, with 259 participants, and also released two Virtual Learning Units for the classroom, in partnership with the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) that engaged 866 participants in 2022. Each Virtual Learning Unit offers a series of art based learning experiences designed to guide students through a virtual exhibition and provide opportunities for deeper learning. An artist interview, viewing exercise and a variety of hands on art making activities have been recorded and can be accessed through a Google Drive.



In 2022, Lambton Heritage Museum completed a **\$1.2M** renovation to the **Lambton Gallery** supported by bequest funds, donations, reserves and a contribution of over \$200,000 from the **Canada Community Revitalization Fund.**

Clockwise from top left: 1) Architect Mauricio Bernal, 17/21 Architects and Laurie Webb, Manager, Museums, Gallery & Archives, review the progress of the renovation. 2) Structural steel beams are welded in place to support new exhibition display walls. 3) Millwork contractors install the base for the new 'LAMBTON' feature wall in the lobby. 4) LHM staff members pause for #museumselfieday as they tour the renovation. 5) The renovated multi-purpose spaces serve as the exhibit gallery for the Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale in September. 6) Workers hoist structural steel framing into place.



TICCIH  
WELCOME  
TO  
THE HERITAGE  
OF THE OIL  
INDUSTRY

In 2022, OMC and Fairbank Oil hosted an **International Conference** with representatives from **5** countries defining a path to achieve **UNESCO** world heritage designation for the Oil Springs site.

Clockwise from top left: 1) Warden Kevin Marriott welcomes participants to the TICCIH (The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage) Oil Heritage Conference. 2) International delegates attending the TICCIH Oil Heritage Conference enjoy a tour of the Fairbank Oil property and OMC. 3) Conference panelists (left to right) Dr. Miles Oglethorpe, Dr. Christophe Rivet, Dr. Boguslaw Szmygin, and Dinu Bumbaru lead a discussion on heritage designation. 4) Charlie Fairbank of Fairbank Oil reviews some of the tools and technology that have been used in the oil industry for over 160 years. 5) Conference delegates tour the recently renovated OMC exhibit gallery. 6) Conference delegates tour the Fairbank Oil property.



Volunteers assist with recording audio tours for the Re View exhibition series, rediscovering artworks from the JNAAG collection.



The Canatara Cabin Restoration Project Committee review plans for reconstruction with architect John Rutledge (right).



Warden Kevin Marriott (left), GM Andrew Meyer and Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber celebrate the re-opening of Forest Library in March.

## International Oil Heritage Conference

The County partnered with Fairbank Oil and The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) to host a three-day conference in Sarnia and Oil Springs in August of 2022. The first two days were held in Sarnia with papers presented on August 26, followed by an in-depth tour on August 27 that included the Oil Museum of Canada and Fairbank Oil with brief stops in nearby Petrolia.

The conference brought together international heritage and oil experts, historians, preservationists and representatives of conservation agencies, to discuss the most significant infrastructure, built heritage and landscapes related to worldwide petroleum production, and to consider the best ways to recognize and safeguard it. The group also discussed the nomination of sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List, including a possible serial or joint nomination that would include the Oil Springs shared site.

## Museum Heritage Hour & Virtual Talks

The Heritage Sarnia-Lambton network hosted an ongoing series of interesting and engaging presentations highlighting Lambton's history in 2022. Talks included a panel presentation on

*Mysterious Artifacts*, which explored strange and unusual artifacts lurking inside the museums' vaults, as well as Heritage Hour presentations on *Winter Sports and Recreation* and *Celebrating the Women of Lambton*. Representatives from museums across the County take part in the panel presentations, including Oil Museum of Canada, Lambton Heritage Museum, Forest Museum, Sombra Museum, Arkona Lion's Museum, and Plympton-Wyoming Museum. Other virtual programming delivered through collaborative partnerships included Virtual Talks on *Drake Well Museum and Park* from Titusville, Pennsylvania, and *Petroleum and Environmental Impacts – The Path Towards Sustainability*.

## Celebrating Lambton County Library

In October, Lambton County Library celebrated Ontario Public Library Week and the 90th anniversary of the Lambton County Library System with the unveiling of a new exhibit on the second floor of Sarnia Library entitled, *Beyond the Books: History of the Lambton County Library System*. Developed by Lambton County Archives, the exhibit features the history of public libraries in Lambton County. Eight complimentary exhibits were also installed at Forest, Thedford, Alvinston, Florence, Petrolia, Corunna, Point Edward and Wyoming Libraries to mark the original library system locations.

## Spirit of the Forest Festival

LHM partnered with the Lakeshore Eco-Network to host Spirit of the Forest Festival at the Museum. The event, which drew 134 participants, was held on October 1, 2022. The day included fun children's activities, tree story time, walks, live animals, and informative displays celebrating trees and forests. It was held in conjunction with the native tree and plant sale co-hosted by Lakeshore Eco-Network and Friends of Pinery Park.

## Canadian Great War Society

Lambton County Library, in partnership with The Canadian Great War Society, hosted military historian and author Andrew Robertshaw for a Talk and Film Screening event at the Sarnia Library Theatre in November as part of its Lambton Remembers programming. Robertshaw discussed his experience as a historical and military advisor for films including *War Horse, 1917* and *They Shall Not Grow Old*. The talk was followed by a screening of Peter Jackson's 2018 documentary *They Shall Not Grow Old*.

Lambton County Library also hosted four additional Lambton Remembers programs leading up to Remembrance Day in partnership with various local organizations.

# Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces



David Taylor (right), retired Gallery Lambton Curator, visits with JNAAG Curator Sonya Blazek to donate works by Ludmila Munclinger.



The cedar shingle roof of the historic Rokeby School at Lambton Heritage Museum is replaced as part of ongoing restoration work.



The One Seed Lambton program saw 3,000 seed packs of Royal Burgundy Bush Beans distributed at library locations across the County.

The Cultural Services Division strategically manages and strengthens Lambton County's collections and associated research, developing and enhancing the important museum, gallery and library collections entrusted to the County.

## New Website on International Oil Drillers

After several years of research and development, OMC launched a new website in 2022 showcasing the important contributions to the world-wide oil industry by local International Oil Drillers. From the mid-1870s until the mid-1940s, more than 800 international drillers from Lambton County provided Canadian oil drilling expertise and equipment to nearly 90 countries. This new website explores their stories and shares their letters, photographs, and souvenirs found in the museum collection. The multi-year project was funded by Digital Museums Canada.

Research for the website was conducted by Museum staff and more than 600 artifacts were photographed or digitized for this project with nearly 250 individual drillers featured with

stories, artifacts and videos. A comprehensive list of all known International Drillers and an interactive map showcasing the locations around the world are also included in the site. The website is available in both in English and French, and can be accessed at [www.internationaloildrillers.ca](http://www.internationaloildrillers.ca).

## Historical Newspapers Available Online

In 2022, Lambton County Library launched a new service to help patrons conduct local and family research. Library cardholders now have access to historical newspapers from three major publications through ProQuest. Full digital archives of The Windsor Star, The Globe and Mail and The Toronto Star, spanning the years from 1844 to 2019, can be accessed by library cardholders from anywhere with an internet connection.

## A Changing Library Collection

With increased demand on eLibrary services, the library continued to expand its electronic collections in 2022, with 5,477 new Overdrive titles (digital eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming video and periodicals) added to the collection. The library also continued to subscribe to databases to give the library's 20,760 active card holders convenient access to millions of titles online to pursue their areas of interest. Lambton County Library also continued to purchase new titles as part of the management of its physical collection.





MP Lianne Rood (left), MPP Bob Bailey, Warden Kevin Marriott and Oil Springs Mayor Ian Veen cut the ribbon to reopen OMC in May.



OMC staff unpack and organize artifacts on repurposed library shelving in the new collections storage area, following renovations.



Staff at Forest Library set out the collection on new shelving to welcome patrons back after extensive interior renovations.

In 2022, 12,374 new titles (28,718 total new items) were added to the library's physical collection of 191,237 items across 25 library locations. Cardholders borrowed 497,256 physical items in 2022.

### Archives Lunch and Learn Series

In May, Lambton County Archives launched a new virtual Lunch and Learn series to share archival resources available to the public. Over the course of four sessions, Archivist/Supervisor, Nicole Aszalos, explored popular research and genealogy topics such as genetic genealogy, property research, online resources, and the role and importance of local archives within the community.

### One Seed Lambton

Lambton County Library introduced the One Seed Lambton program in May in an effort to draw attention to its seed library, and to unite the community around growing a single type of garden seed. Following a launch event at Petrolia Library, 3,000 seed packets of Royal Burgundy Bush Beans were distributed to all libraries to distribute to patrons in every corner of the County and a number of programs were planned to coincide with the initiative such as Gardening 101, Harvesting Tips, and Cooking Your Burgundy Bush Beans with Chef Paresh Thakkar.

### New Acquisitions & Research

In 2022, the museums, gallery, and archives received a number of generous donations to the permanent collections of each site from area residents. There were 33 donors to LHM, 19 to OMC, 78 to LCA and 7 to JNAAG, which resulted in hundreds of objects added to the permanent collections. To accommodate research, LCA responded to 1,215 research requests related to genealogy (576) and local history (639), resulting in over 1,072 hours spent by local researchers reviewing the resources available within the Archives.

### Library Facility Improvement Projects

In 2022, Lambton County Library worked with its municipal partners to undertake significant renovations at several library locations. In March, the library completed a renovation of the Forest Library, which saw new carpet installed by the Municipality, while the County supported the construction of a private meeting space, the painting of the library, and the installation of new shelving and an accessible service desk.

In May, library staff celebrated the completion of the Petrolia Library with the cooperation of the Town of Petrolia. Funded by a generous bequest from the late Otto and Kathleen (Cunningham) Schuldt, the renovation saw the

partners work together to carefully restore the heritage train station interior by refinishing the wood floors, upgrading electrical, replacing carpeted areas, installing new shelving and an accessible service desk, and painting walls, trim and casings throughout. The completion of the project was marked by a community ceremony, which included former Chief Librarian Ronald Baker, the first administrator of Lambton County Library, as a special guest.

Minor modifications took place to Wyoming and Point Edward Libraries in the fall. Both locations received fresh coats of paint, and some minor adjustments to the layout.

### Library eServices Demand Increases

Demand for Library eService offerings continued to increase despite the return to in-person services coming out of the pandemic. The library's electronic circulation exceeded 2021 usage, with over 431,067 e-service items (digital books, newspapers, magazines, audio books, music, movies, etc.) accessed in 2022 representing approximately 46% of the total annual circulation (physical and electronic) in 2022. With a return to full in-person services in 2022, the library saw 16,509 public computer uses across its 25 library locations, as well as 25,470 uses of free library Wi-Fi service.

# Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Lambton's Profile



Oil Museum of Canada is recognized with The Ontario Museum Association *Award of Excellence in Exhibitions* in November.



Cultural Services staff wear orange shirts to honour the story of Phyllis Webstad and mark The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation on September 30, 2022.

The Cultural Services Division endeavours to pursue opportunities that raise our profile at the provincial, national and international level, while maximizing our ability to contribute to the cultural, social and economic vitality of Lambton County.

## Creative County Grant Program

Lambton's Creative County Grant Program approved 19 projects for the 2022-2023 program year, representing an investment of \$70,530 in funding in local arts, culture, and heritage initiatives. The program was launched in 2013 to support innovative projects that build cultural capacity, strengthen the creative community, define the County's unique identity and enrich the quality of life of all residents.

## National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

In 2022, Division staff worked in consultation with David D. Plain, Indigenous historian and author from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to make free copies of *A Road to Understanding Indigenous Culture* available to staff and patrons of cultural services facilities. These booklets were designed with a goal of helping residents of the region

form a better understanding and connection with each other. The booklets were released on National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, and remain available for free to the public. To mark the day, Cultural Services staff also wore orange shirts to honour the Survivors of residential schools, the children who never returned home, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

## Provincial Awards of Excellence

In 2022, Lambton County was recognized with two significant awards from professional sector organizations. The Lambton County Archives was awarded the Archives Association of Ontario Institutional Award, presented to archival institutions that have made significant contributions to the advancement of the archival field, while demonstrating innovation with outstanding programs or services. The award recognized the Archives' recent project *Remembering Lambton County's 2010 Snow Emergency*. The Oil Museum of Canada was presented the Award of Excellence in Exhibitions, by the Ontario Museum Association. The award recognizes the recent renovation project that transformed exhibition space, improved accessibility, and replaced end of life equipment and building systems.



LCA was one of 29 cultural services facilities that now offer patrons free copies of *A Road to Understanding Indigenous Culture* booklets with a goal of helping those in our community form a better understanding and connection with each other.



Workers prepare a new asphalt laneway as part of parking and site improvements at Oil Museum of Canada in September.

# Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively

As a guiding principle, the Cultural Services Division ensures the most efficient and effective use of County resources, and strives for continuous innovation in addressing the needs of the community.

## Museum Renovations

In early 2022, extensive renovations to the main museum exhibit building at OMC came to a close, including upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, plumbing, lighting and electrical improvements, replacement of doors and windows, reconfiguration of the floor plan, waterproofing of the foundation and site improvements. Funding for the full cost of the renovation project was achieved through prior approved reserves and secured funding through grants.

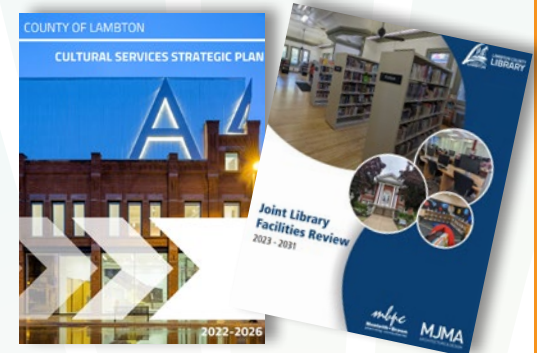
After the re-opening of OMC in May, staff turned their attention to a \$1.2M renovation of the Lambton Gallery at LHM. The renovation included a complete redesign of the exhibit space to create a new attraction for the museum. The design includes multi-use and temporary exhibit spaces, as well as a permanent exhibit area with new multi-media and interactive features, LED lighting, display cases and exhibit walls, audio

capabilities, video surveillance, and improved accessibility features. The renovation will be complete in early 2023, with the re-opening of the Lambton Gallery anticipated in May, 2023.

## Planning for Success

The Division undertook two significant planning exercises in 2022 to guide future decision-making. The information collected through the 2019 Community Needs Assessment provided the necessary public feedback to form the basis for a new strategic and operational plan. The new strategic plan, adopted by County Council in May, will allow the Division to position itself to respond to future opportunities, adjust to changing circumstances in order to meet Divisional and larger organizational goals for the County, and ensure continued investment in service delivery to the public.

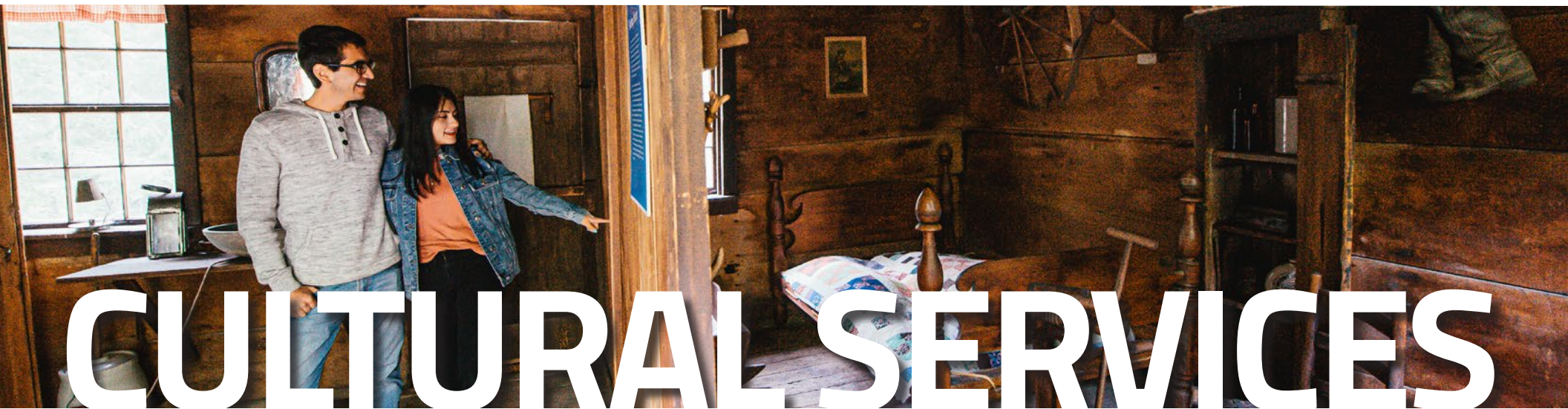
One of the strategic actions recommended in the plan was a third party review of library facilities to determine their suitability for meeting current and future service demands. In 2022, the Division engaged a consultant to prepare a Joint Library Facilities Review study that informs Lambton County Library and its municipal and school board partners about how much library space is required to meet community needs to the year 2031. In addition, the study examines the type of space that is required and outlines required investments.



The Cultural Services Division Strategic Plan (2022-2026) and Joint Library Facilities Review (2023-2031) were completed to guide future decision-making.



Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosely (left) is joined by former Chief Librarian Ronald Baker and Warden Kevin Marriot to cut the ribbon at Petrolia Library's reopening celebration in June.



**Judith & Norman  
Alix Art Gallery**

147 Lochiel Street  
Sarnia, ON  
N7T 0B4  
519-336-8127  
www.jnaag.ca

**Lambton Heritage  
Museum**

10035 Museum Road  
Grand Bend, ON  
NOM 1T0  
519-243-2600  
www.heritagemuseum.ca

**Lambton County  
Library Headquarters**

787 Broadway Street  
Wyoming, ON  
NON 1T0  
519-845-3324  
www.lclibrary.ca

**Lambton County  
Archives**

787 Broadway Street  
Wyoming, ON  
NON 1T0  
519-845-5426  
www.lambtonarchives.ca

**Oil Museum of Canada  
National Historic Site**

2423 Kelly Road  
Oil Springs, ON  
NON 1P0  
519-834-2840  
www.oilmuseum.ca



BACK COVER IMAGES: Clockwise from top left - 1) Summer students at the grand re-opening of OMC in May. 2) Visitors to the Farmer's Market at LHM. 3) Members of the Lambton Concert Band perform at the Sarnia Library Theatre. 4) Visitors explore the interior of the Tudhop Cabin, one of the historic buildings featured at LHM.